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For Immediate Release
May 20, 2004

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Sen. Allen's legislation assisting Mackinac Straits Hospital heading to the governor

LANSING – State Sen. Jason Allen, R-Traverse City, announced that Senate Bill 991, granting authority status to the Mackinac Straits Hospital Authority, is heading to the governor's desk for approval.

“As soon as the governor signs this legislation the way will be clear for the Mackinac Straits Area Hospital Authority to proceed and develop their new facilities,” Allen said.

Sponsored by Allen, SB 991, would amend the Hospital Authority Act to allow for a group operating as an authority for more than 40 years to be considered an official authority.

When applying for a United States Department of Agriculture loan recently to construct a new facility, the hospital discovered that one of the townships belonging to the authority could not legally be proven a member. SB 991 will correct this problem and allow for Mackinac Straits Hospital to continue with their development and clear the way for the hospital authority to receive a USDA loan for \$9 million.

“I am glad that we were able to positively impact the health care needs of citizens in northern Michigan,” Allen said. “Once this bill is signed by the governor, the Mackinac Straits Hospital Authority should be in great shape to acquire the funds to build their new facility.”

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